## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS DALLAS DIVISION

| JAMES JOSEPH JULUKE, JR., an individual,                           | )                        |
|--|--------------------------|
| Plaintiff,   | ) Case No.: 3:21-CV-2900 |
| <b>v</b> .   | )                        |
| SUNNYLAND PROPERTIES, LTD., a Texas Limited Partnership,           | )                        |
| and  | )                        |
| GATOR SPRING VALLEY PARTNERS, LLLP, a Florida Limited Partnership, | )<br>)                   |
| Defendants.  | )<br>)                   |
|  | ,                        |

## **COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff, JAMES JOSEPH JULUKE, JR. through his undersigned counsel, hereby files this Complaint and sues SUNNYLAND PROPERTIES, LTD., a Texas Limited Partnership and GATOR SPRING VALLEY PARTNERS, LLLP, a Florida Limited Partnership, for injunctive relief, attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12181 *et seq.*, ("AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT" or "ADA") and alleges:

## **JURISDICTION AND PARTIES**

- 1. This is an action for declaratory and injunctive relief pursuant to Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12181, *et seq.*, (the "ADA"). This Court is vested with original jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over the subject matter of all other claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1367(a).
- 2. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(b), because the Defendants' Property, which is the subject of this action, is located in Dallas County, Texas.

- 3. Plaintiff, JAMES JOSEPH JULUKE, JR. (hereinafter referred to as "MR. JULUKE" or "Plaintiff"), is a resident of the State of Texas in Dallas County.
- 4. MR. JULUKE is a qualified individual with a disability under the ADA. In 1994, MR. JULUKE suffered an injury to his spinal cord resulting in trauma to his T-10 vertebrae. MR. JULUKE is a paraplegic and is disabled.
- 5. MR. JULUKE's disability, at all times material hereto, impairs his ability to walk, stand and bend, all major life activities, and requires him to use a wheelchair to ambulate.
- 6. Defendant, SUNNYLAND PROPERTIES, LTD., a Texas Limited Partnership, (hereinafter referred to as "Defendant"), is registered to do business in the State of Texas. Upon information and belief, Defendant is the owner, lessor and/or operator of the real property and improvements which are the subject of this action, to wit: the "Property," known as Spring Valley Crossing Shopping Center, generally located at 7879 Spring Valley Rd., Dallas, Texas 75254.
- 7. Defendant, GATOR SPRING VALLEY PARTNERS, LLLP, a Florida Limited Partnership, (hereinafter referred to as "GSVP" or "Defendant"), is registered to do business in the State of Texas. Upon information and belief, Defendant is the owner, lessor and/or operator of the real property and improvements which are the subject of this action, to wit: the "Property," known as Spring Valley Crossing Shopping Center, generally located at 14221 Coit Rd., Dallas, Texas 75254.
  - 8. All events giving rise to this lawsuit occurred in the Northern District of Texas.

## <u>COUNT I</u> (VIOLATION OF TITLE III OF THE ADA)

9. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates into this cause of action each and every allegation contained in the previous paragraphs of this Complaint.

- 10. The Property, a large retail shopping plaza with numerous stores, is open to the public and provides goods and services to the public.
- 11. Plaintiff has visited the Property, attempted to utilize the goods and services offered at the Property and has plans to return to the Property in the near future. Plaintiff last visited the Property in early October 2021.
- 12. During his visits, MR. JULUKE experienced serious difficulty accessing the goods and utilizing the services therein due to the architectural barriers discussed in this Complaint.
- 13. MR. JULUKE continues to desire to visit the Property, but fears that he will again encounter serious difficulty and safety hazards due to the barriers discussed herein which still exist.
- 14. Defendants have discriminated, and continue to discriminate, against Plaintiff in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 12181 *et seq.* and 28 C.F.R. § 36.304 *et seq.* by excluding and/or denying Plaintiff the benefits of the goods and services located on the Property by failing to provide and/or correct the following barriers to access which Plaintiff personally observed, encountered, and which hindered his access:
  - A. Plaintiff personally encountered inaccessible curb ramps throughout the Property owned by both Defendants due to excessive running slopes, excessively sloped side flares and pavement in disrepair. This condition made it more difficult for Plaintiff to maneuver his wheelchair over the ramps and increased his risk of fall.
  - B. Plaintiff personally encountered inaccessible sidewalk routes between multiple tenant entrances in the building with Cici's Pizza, Pet Grooming, Metro PCS, and Wash & Dry due to excessive running slopes and changes in elevation without the benefit of handrails, causing Plaintiff to use extra

3

- caution and increasing his risk of fall and injury.
- C. Plaintiff encountered an inaccessible entrance to Sunnyland Outdoor Living due to the lack of a level landing/clear floor space at the store entrance. This condition made it difficult for Plaintiff to safely gain access to the business.
- D. Plaintiff encountered inaccessible parking designated for disabled use throughout the Property due to a lack of signage, excessive slopes, ramps obstructing the designated access aisles and pavement in disrepair. This condition made it difficult for Plaintiff to identify the designated disabled parking areas and made it more difficult to transfer out of the vehicle.
- 15. Upon information and belief, there are other current violations of the ADA and the ADA Accessibility Guidelines ("ADAAG") at the Property, and only after a full inspection is performed by the Plaintiff or Plaintiff's representatives can all said barriers be identified.
- 16. To date, the readily achievable barriers and other violations of the ADA still exist and have not been remedied or altered in such a way as to effectuate compliance with the provisions of the ADA.
- 17. Independent of his intent to return as a patron to the Property, Plaintiff additionally intends to return to the Property as an ADA tester to determine whether the barriers to access stated herein have been remedied.
- 18. Removal of the barriers to access located on the Property is readily achievable, structurally feasible and easily accomplishable without placing an undue burden on Defendants.
- 19. Removal of the barriers to access located on the Property would allow Plaintiff to fully utilize the goods and services located therein. Moreover, but for the barriers to access discussed here, Plaintiff would frequent the Property more often.

20. The Plaintiff has been obligated to retain undersigned counsel for the filing and prosecution of this action. Plaintiff is entitled to have his reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and

expenses paid by Defendants.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants and requests the

following injunctive and declaratory relief:

A. That the Court declare that the Property owned, leased, and/or operated by

Defendants is in violation of the ADA;

B. That the Court enter an Order directing Defendants to alter its facilities to

make them accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities to the

full extent required by Title III of the ADA;

C. That the Court enter an Order directing Defendants to evaluate and neutralize

its policies and procedures towards persons with disabilities for such

reasonable time so as to allow Defendants to undertake and complete

corrective procedures;

D. That the Court award reasonable attorneys' fees, costs (including expert fees),

and other expenses of suit, to the Plaintiff; and

E. That this Court award Plaintiff such other additional and proper relief as may

be just and equitable.

Respectfully Submitted,

By: /s/ Louis I. Mussman

5

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